

Message Text

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10
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ITF-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSO-00 DPW-01 (ISO) W
----- 000246

P R 020851Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9859
INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3150

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, VS
SUBJECT: KOREANS IN SAIGON

REF: STATE 100892

1. ROK PRESS HAS PICKED UP STORY ON KOREAN CITIZENS STRANDED IN SAIGON AND REPORTED THAT ROKG IS SEEKING ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF 70 TO 130 SUCH INDIVIDUALS. ACCORDING TO PRESS, MOFA OFFICIAL COMMENTED MAY 1 THAT ROKG IS IN CONTACT WITH FRANCE, JAPAN AND ICRC CONCERNING EVACUATION OF THESE KOREANS TO SAFETY. OFFICIAL SAID THESE KOREANS IGNORED ORDER OF ROK EMBASSY SAIGON TO BOARD KOREAN EVACUATION SHIPS WHICH SUCCESSFULLY EVACUATED MORE THAN 1300 KOREANS AND THEIR VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS. PRESS REPORTS THAT ROK AMBASSADOR AND HIS STAFF WERE TRANSPORTED TO SAFETY BY US HELICOPTER SHORTLY BEFORE FALL OF SAIGON.

2. COMMENT: FACT THAT SOME OF ROK EMBASSY STAFF DID NOT MAKE IT OUT HAS NOT APPEARED IN PRESS, AND MOFA HAS TOLD US IT IS TRYING TO HOLD INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL FOR TIME BEING. HOWEVER, AT LEAST ONE ROK REPORTER HAS STORY, WHICH IS BECOMING KNOWN HERE, AND WE EXPECT INTERNATIONAL PRESS MIGHT PICK IT UP BEFORE LONG.

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OUR REPLY TO ONE REPORTER'S INQUIRY WAS THAT NAME LISTS OF HELICOPTER EVACUEES HAVE NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED AND THEREFORE WE HAVE NO INFORMATION.

3. EMBASSY PROPOSES FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE FOR TIME BEING:

Q. DOES DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON REPORT THAT SOME
ROK EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE OVERLOOKED AND LEFT STRANDED
BY US HELICOPTER EVACUATION?

A. WE ARE AWARE OF THESE REPORTS BUT HAVE NO COMMENT AT
PRESENT TIME.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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